

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 CU-02 IO-13 SNM-02

/095 W

-----090651Z 008801 /11

R 081100Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3309

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USLO PEKING

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 0999

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SNAR, ECON, NP, CH, XG, GE, CZ, TH, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #13, APRIL 1-8

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1. NE WIN'S TRAVELS: NEPAL, CHINA, EUROPE (CONF)

PRESIDENT NE WIN DEPARTED APRIL 6 ON HIS GOODWILL VISIT TO NEPAL. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBER DR. MAUNG MAUNG, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER U HLA PHONE, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF U LAY MAUNG, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR COL. MYO AUNG, AND PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR GENERAL LT. COL. AYE KYAW.

FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEPAL, THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO MANDALAY AND MOGOK, AND THEN TO LEAVE AGAIN, PROBABLY BEFORE THE END OF APRIL, FOR A VISIT TO CHINA. AFTER THE CHINA TRIP, ACCORDING TO AN FRG EMBASSY SOURCE, THE PRESIDENT IS PLANNING A VISIT TO SWITZERLAND, WEST GERMANY, AND THE U.K.

COMMENT: A SENIOR MOFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE NEPAL VISIT HAS NO PARTICULAR PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO PROMOTE GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE. THE CHINA VISIT WOULD PROMOTE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME END, BUT WITH FAR MORE SUBSTANCE: NE WIN SEEMS INTENT TO DO EVERYTHING HE REASONABLY CAN TO ESTABLISH AMICABLE TIES WITH NEW PRC LEADERSHIP, TO RECREATE A "SPIRIT OF BANDUNG" ATMOSPHERE IN SINO-BURMESE RELATIONS, AND TO INDUCE THE CHINESE TO DIMINISH FURTHER THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY. THE TRIP TO EUROPE, LIKE SIMILAR TRIPS IN THE PAST, WILL PROBABLY BE PRIMARILY A VACATION.

2. VISITS TO BURMA

A. CINCPAC (LOU)

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CINCPAC, ADMIRAL MAURICE F. WIESNER, VISITED RANGOON APRIL 1-3. BURMESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES ACCEPTED HIS USE OF THE DAO AIRCRAFT FOR BANGKOK-RANGOON-BANGKOK TRAVEL AND HIS WEARING UNIFORM FOR A COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE, OEN. KYAW HTIN, BOTH EVENTS REPRESENTING A NOTCH ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1975 VISIT OF THE PRECEDING CINCPAC. THE BURMESE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (NAVY) AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF ALL THREE SERVICES ATTENDED THE AMBASSADOR'S DINNER FOR CINCPAC. THE VISIT APPARENTLY PLEASE ALL HANDS.

B. GDR PARTY DELEGATION (CONF)

AN EAST GERMAN SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY (SED) DELEGATION HEADED BY SED POLITICAL BUREAU CANDIDATE MEMBER AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY HORST DOHLUS COMPLETED A NINE-DAY VISIT TO BURMA ON APRIL 5. DURING THEIR STAY THE GROUP TRAVELED TO THE SHAN AND ARAKAN STATES AS WELL AS THE USUAL TOURIST STOPS IN MANDALAY AND PAGAN. THE DELEGATION MET WITH BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP) GENERAL SECRETARY GEN. SAN YU AND INVITED HIM TO VISIT THE GDR. SA PRESS RELEASE

ISSUED BY THE SED DELEGATION STATED THAT THE TWO SIDES  
"AGREED TO SYSTEMATICALLY EXTEND THE CORDIAL RELATIONS  
BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES BY CONTINUING THE EXCHANGE OF  
OPINIONS AND MUTUAL DELEGATIONS."

COMMENT: IN BURMESE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE VISIT,  
THE HEAD OF THE SED DELEGATION WAS REFERRED TO AS "COMRADE,"  
A TERM NOT PREVIOUSLY USED IN REFERRING TO MEMBERS OF  
FRATERNAL SOCIALIST PARTIES. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS  
THAT THE EAST GERMANS, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE SOVIETS,  
ARE DEVELOPING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BURMESE  
IN WHICH SED PROBABLY PLAYS THE ROLE OF SOCIALIST MENTOR  
OR ELDER BROTHER.

C. CZECH TRADE UNION DELEGATION (UNC)

A TRADE UNION DELEGATION FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONSISTING  
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS,  
KAREL FINDELAR, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE UNIONS, VALASTIMIL BERAN, VISITED BURMA MARCH 30 TO APRIL 4. DURING THEIR STAY THE DELEGATES HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS OF BURMA'S CENTRAL PEOPLE'S WORKERS' COUNCIL AND TRAVELED TO PAGAN AND CHAUK.

3. MILITARY ATTACHES VISIT THAILAND (LOU)

DURING THE SCHEDULED MILITARY ATTACHE TOUR TO THE SHAN STATES IN EASTERN BURMA 29-APRIL, ALL MILITARY ATTACHES, INCLUDING PRC AND SOVIET ATTACHES AND THOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCREDITED TO BURMA BUT RESIDENT IN BANGKOK, VISITED TACHILEK, BURMA AND CROSSED THE RIVER TO VISIT MAE SAI, THAILAND WHERE THEY SPENT MORE THAN TWO HOURS. DOCUMENTATIONS WAS NOT REQUIRED (I.E. PASSPORTS). ACTION TO OBTAIN THAI APPROVAL SLR THE MAE SAI VISIT WAS INITIATED MARCH 24 BY THE THAI MILITARY ATTACHE AT THE REQUEST OF THE BURMESE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE, COL. MYO AUNG, AND WAS ONLY RECEIVED ON MARCH 29. THUS ARRANGEMENT OF THE VISIT MAY BE A SIGNAL FROM THE BURMESE AND THAI GOVERNMENTS THAT THE OVERALL BORDER SITUATION AND THEIR MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS ARE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY TROUBLED BY THE LATE MARCH FIGHTING ON THE SOUTHEAST BURMA/THAI BORDER.

AS A MATTER OF RELATED INTEREST, THE SHOPS IN MAE SAI ARE WELL STOCKED WITH LUXURY ITEMS AND KYATS ARE ACCEPTED IN PAYMENT FOR GOODS, BUT AT A RATE WELL BELOW THE INTERNATIONAL OR BLACK MARKET RATES (1 BAHT TO .73 OR .75 KYAT).

4. UNIVERSITY EXAMS HELD WITHOUT INCIDENT (LOU)

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TWO YEARS UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENTS. A FEW LEAFLETS AND AN ANTI-GUB DRAWING WERE CIRCULATED BEFORE TESTS BEGAN, BUT DEMONSTRATIONS FAILED TO MATERIALIZE.

COMMENT: THE LACK OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY THIS YEAR IS DUE IN PART TO MANY STUDENTS' DESIRE TO AVOID YET ANOTHER DELAY IN THEIR EDUCATIONS.

5. NARCOTICS -- CORRUPT OFFICIALS PROSECUTED (UNC)

THE PRESS REPORTED THAT 13 OFFICIALS IN AKYAB WILL SHORTLY BE TRIED UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE NARCOTICS DRUG LAW. THOSE ACCUSED INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE TOWNSHIP AND WARD PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AS WELL AS THE AKYAB POLICE STATION COMMANDER AND OTHER POLICE OFFICERS. FOLLOWING A SEIZURE OF RAW OPIUM ON FEBRUARY 20, THE ACCUSED HAD ARRANGED TO PRODUCE ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE SEIZED NARCOTICS FOR EVIDENCE IN COURT WHILE DIVERTING THE REMAINDER FOR RESALE. A TIP FROM ANOTHER VCOUNCIL MEMBER LED TO THE ARREST OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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THIRTEEN.

6. ANTI-NARCOTICS FILM PRODUCTED (UNCL)

THIS WEEK, ANEW PRIVATELY PRODUCED BURMESE FEATURE FILM, "THIS WHITE IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER WHITE," BEGAN SCREENING AT FIVE RANGOON CINEMA HALLS. THE THEME OF THE FILM IS THE MENACE OF DRUGS IN BURMA AND THEIR EFFECTS ON BURMESE YOUTH. GUB HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS FILM AND MAY PURCHASE IT FOR ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN.

7. GUB CRACKS DOWN ON BEAN SMUGGLERS (LOU)

DURING THE PAST WEEK BURMESE NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS BROADCASTS GAVE WIDE PUBLICITY TO A GUB STATEMENT REMINDING THE PUBLIC THAT MATPE, A TYPE OF PULSE, IS A CONTROLLED ITEM WHICH UNDER THE LAW AUTHORIZING THE SOCIALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY CAN BE BOUGHT AND SOLD ONLY BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE NEWS REPORTS WARNED THAT UNDER SECTION 15 OF THAT LAW, THOSE WHO SMUGGLE MATPE OUT OF THE COUNTRY CAN BE GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF NEWS ARTICLES REPORTING THE CONFISCATION OF ILLEGAL PULSE SHIPMENTS AND THE ARREST OF BEAN SMUGGLERS.

THE ARTICLES SAID THE HIGH PRICE OF MATPE ABROAD HAD ENCOURAGED SMUGGLING AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENTS OF THE COMMODITY WERE VERY LOW. A SOURCE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THE REASON BEHIND THE GUB'S SUDDEN IRE AGAINST BEAN SMUGGLERS WAS THAT OFFICIAL PROCUREMENTS OF BEANS AND PULSES WERE SO LOW THAT THE GUB HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MEET EXPORT COMMITMENTS. AS A RESULT, THE GUB HAD TO PAY A FINE TO A JAPANESE FIRM FOR FAILURE TO FULFILL CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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